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DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Telephone)

Memorandum of Conversation

737

DATE: June 20, 1954

SUBJECT: Action of UN Security Council regarding Guatemala.

PARTICIPANTS: Ambassador Eduardo Zuleta, Counsel of Colombia;
Mr. Robert F. Woodward, Deputy Assistant Secretary, ARA.

COPIES TO: UNA; OSA - Mr. Gerberich; AR; ARA - Ambassador Dreier; USUN New York

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Ambassador Zuleta telephoned that he was very deeply concerned about the action of the Security Council with respect to Guatemala. He said that he had just talked extensively with the acting Colombian representative who attended the Council meeting (the regular Colombian permanent representative having been four hours away from New York at the time the meeting was called), and he had the clear impression that the Guatemalans regarded the Security Council action as a signal victory. The Colombian representative said that the Guatemalan representatives left the meeting in a jubilant mood and rushed off to telephone to their Government.

Ambassador Zuleta said that he considered that three mistakes had been made at the Security Council meeting:

1. The American nations should have made a clearcut motion at the beginning that the substance of the problem was not one appropriate for consideration by the Security Council.

2. The Russian veto of the resolution, which was only a negative vote in a procedural matter, should not have been classified as a veto.

3. The substance of the French motion having been vetoed by the Soviet Delegate in the fact of having vetoed the Colombian resolution, the Council should not have entertained a reconsideration of this matter when it was presented by the French.

Ambassador Zuleta said that he is going to New York on the morning of June 21 to see whether some method may be found to 'unseize' the UN

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of this matter so there may be no question that it can be handled by the OAS. He expressed serious apprehension with respect to the effect the Security Council action would have upon the OAS and the whole question of jurisdiction over problems of this kind.

ARA:RWoodward:glb